



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

August 8, 2000

S. 2272
Strengthening Abuse and Neglect Courts Act of 2000
As reported by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on July 27, 2000

SUMMARY

S. 2272 would authorize the Attorney General to make grants to state and local abuse and neglect courts to implement and improve automated data collection, reduce the backlog of cases, and to develop special advocate programs. CBO estimates that implementing S. 2272 would cost \$23 million over the 2001-2005 period, assuming the appropriation of the authorized amounts. Because enactment of S. 2272 would not affect direct spending or receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would benefit some state and local governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 2272 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 750 (administration of justice).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION					
Estimated Authorization Level	17	2	2	2	2
Estimated Outlays	4	7	7	3	2

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the bill will be enacted by October 2000, and that the authorized amounts will be appropriated. Based on historical data for similar programs, we estimate that outlays from such appropriations would total \$23 million over the 2001-2005 period.

S. 2272 would authorize the appropriation of a total of \$25 million over fiscal years 2001 through 2005 for the Attorney General to provide grants to improve state and local abuse and neglect courts. Of this sum, \$10 million would be for grants to improve automated data collection and case-tracking systems for proceedings conducted by such courts. CBO assumes that \$2 million would be appropriated for this purpose in each fiscal year over the five-year period. The bill also would authorize the appropriation of \$10 million in fiscal year 2001 for grants to reduce the backlog of cases in abuse and neglect courts. In addition, S. 2272 would authorize the appropriation of \$5 million in fiscal year 2001 for the Attorney General to provide grants to the National Court-Appointed Special Advocate Association to expand or develop special advocacy programs.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

S. 2272 contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in UMRA and would benefit some state and local governments. The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$20 million in grants over the 2001-2005 period to qualified state and local abuse and neglect courts. Any cost incurred by these governments would be the result of complying with grant conditions and would be voluntary. Tribal governments would not be affected by this bill.

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON THE PRIVATE SECTOR

The bill contains no new private-sector mandates.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:

Federal Costs: Lanette J. Keith

Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Shelley Finlayson

Impact on the Private Sector: Patrice Gordon

ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:

Robert A. Sunshine

Assistant Director for Budget Analysis